

# The RAYMOND RECORDER

An independent weekly, published every Thursday at the "Recorder" Office on Main Street.

A. J. WEAVER, Editor

Subscription rates—In Canada \$2.00 —Outside Canada \$2.50  
Advertising rates on application

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## Home and School

One can pick up a daily paper most any night and read of the activities of the Home and School Association in a dozen towns around Raymond. They seem to be having a lot to do and carry on considerable business and social activities.

Raymond could stand a good Home and School Association or a Parent Teachers Organization which is about the same thing. Closer alliance between the parent and teacher and a good understanding of the problems of our schools would make for better and more efficient education. The

voice of such an organization would be a welcome sound and once started would be able to render much valuable service in the field of education in Raymond.

One of the dozen or more clubs now operating in the town for purely social activities could very well turn their time and talents to the organization of such an Association for Raymond. Is there not a good ambitious citizen here that will take the helm and see that a Home and School Association is organized here?

### HISTORY OF RAYMOND

(continued from front page)

erve the moisture until the next year seemed ridiculous. Row to hold work horses and milk cows close to home on the open prairies during fly time was a real problem for the settlers. Uncle Jesse Knight solved that problem by placing a four wire fence around four sections of ground surrounding the town and all the domestic livestock. Everybody was at home then within the enclosure. Next was to get this new sod broken and pulverized and producing. Horse power only was available and that limited. Once in a while you would see a steam plow outfit at work. A good four horse team represented an investment of \$700 to \$800 in those days. We talked horses and horse power then like we talk tractors now days. As I remember it took from \$3.50 to \$4.00 per acre to get breaking done on this land that was costing \$6 to \$10 per acre.

It seemed a struggle to get land at \$10 per acre paid for out of the proceeds of your grain crops because your operations were so limited. The standard spring wheat then was Red Fife, a wheat that was from 10 days to 2 weeks later ripening than the present day Marquis. It was a rare thing to harvest a crop free of frost. The price ranged from 35 cents to 50 cents per bushel graded according to frost.

My brother W. G. Meeks and myself often wondered which was the better business, to grow wheat at 35 to 50 cents per bushel of raise livestock and sell your steers three and four years old for \$35 to \$38 per head with a very limited market. We rather leaned to the cattle business until we got a bump during the winter of 1906 and 07. Old timers look back to that winter as one of severe ones in the last 45 years. By the last of December we had gone through what would be considered the ravages of an ordinary winter. January came in cold with nearly two feet of snow covering the country. Transportation was almost impossible except by sleigh or on horseback. Cattle were dying on the range before Christmas. Thousands of cattle had drifted out of the country south and east of Stirling into the Milk River district and down past Coultas on to the River in Montana. It was impossible to get any of these cattle back except by train or by trailing them right up the railroad track.

There was no broken trail to follow except that one pushed out by the trains. There was perfect co-operation between the train crews and the cow men. When a herd of cattle was met coming single file the train would stop until the cattle passed around and back on the track. Less than 40 percent of the cattle ever got back. Eldridge Brothers of Spring Coultas were the heaviest losers because they had the most cattle. One thing that made the winter more disastrous was the fact the round-up time was delayed nearly two months waiting for good weather which never came, giving the cattle time to

drift clear out of reach. However, a chinook broke on the country about the sixth of February which cleaned up most of the snow, sending small rivers of water down every coulee in the country only to tighten up again in March with more snow and a deadly outbreak of mange.

We, Meeks Brothers, after experiencing our second severe loss in live stock decided that we would have to prepare to stop such losses as we sustained in the May Snow storm and the bad winter of 1906 and 07. We broke more land and grew more wheat, oats and barley to meet the needs of a starving herd of cattle during a hard winter. We were quite successful in holding our losses down for a good many years by turning more attention to farming and at the same time increasing the number of our stock. Some people imagine a ranchers income from a herd of cattle comes as easy money. No worry! No responsibility in providing expensive feed, but just one continuous source of increase and income.

This livestock picture don't always look the same, even to the rancher. If you carry your herd for a year without too much loss and expense and then go out in the spring when the grass is green the flowers blooming and see a contented herd of cattle showing a nice increase. I grant you it is a beautiful picture. But what does this picture look like after going through the ravages of one of Canada's hard winters. Quite different, I assure you.

If I can be pardoned I should

## New Chrysler Now on Display



Increased vision, roomier interiors, longer wheelbases, and slightly smaller outside dimensions are some of the features of the new Chrysler models. Front and rear overhang is reduced to allow safer entrance and exit from driveways. Over 50 improvements have been made to engine, body and chassis. Functional design is stressed. Shown above is the Chrysler Windsor Four-Door Sedan. Also available in the Windsor series is a Chrysler Windsor Club Coupe. Windsor models have "Presto-Matic" transmission as standard equipment. The Chrysler Royal series includes a Four-Door Sedan, a Club Coupe and a Seven Passenger Sedan. All wheelbases are 125" except the Chrysler Royal Seven Passenger Sedan which is 130".

like to make mention of what Meeks Brothers passed through during the hard winter of 1919 and 20. It might not be in good taste to mention these things but what was true of us was likewise true of nearly every rancher in the country.

The year 1919 was an extremely dry year, the worst in 45 years, following the dry year of 1918. There was no growth of grass. Crops that had not failed were very light. Stock men were in a predicament, as to know just what was best to do: sell their stock of dry to winter them through. Knight and Watson as that time owning from 15,000 to 20,000 cattle, started late in July to move them to the Chicago market. About every 10 days they shipped about 2000 head. They had purchased the Blood Indian Reserve Cattle. The Knight Sugar Co. cattle, as well as several other small herds. They were cleaning up their own herds yet keen to buy more. Late in August Mr. Watson suggested he thought he could make us a satisfactory bid on our herd and ship them to Chicago. We agreed upon a time when we thought the cattle could be rounded up for him to look at. After the cattle were bunched he checked them for flesh, quality and age and was prepared to make us a bid. The herd presented a beautiful picture as they rested on the hill side under a hot August sun along the shores of a large lake. "Well boys," he said, "the drought hasn't hurt you much yet." The cattle look good." He made us a generous offer when worked out in pounds, dollars and cents. It meant approximately \$100 per head for 2000 cattle, yearlings and up. The calves by their mothers' side was to go as one which meant 600 calves to be thrown in. We declined the offer but did sell him the beef cattle in the bunch. At that time we were getting good prices as it was soon after War 1.

To sell the stock herd was like killing the goose that laid the golden egg. We couldn't see our way clear to part with them. On the third of October, winter set in and then the battle was on, to save this herd of cattle we had refused to sell. It was winter all the time from then on except a mild two weeks in January until about the 9th of May. Our own acc-

umulation of feed was soon gone. We bough hay and shipped to the cattle and shipped cattle to the hay. The winter was old and long. Hay feed alone would not preserve their flesh. Grain had to be fed. We shipped grain from northern Alberta, corn and meal cake from the U.S. as well as hay from Manitoba. In spite of all we could do losses piled up. Expenses mounted until the first of June 1920. Meeks brothers woke up owing the Bank of Montreal \$97,000 after starting out with a clean slab the fall before.

If I am permitted to write one more article I will let you know how we worked out from under this load.

### ACROSS

1. Plausibly

8. Expression

9. Infrequent

10. Famous

11. Egress

12. Chills

13. Music note

14. Dry, said

15. Spigot

16. Tree

17. Light

18. Cavalry

19. Coloring

20. Chum

21. River

22. Drinking

23. Vessel

24. Alcoholic

25. Jewish

26. Loose-

27. Hanging

28. Point

29. A measure

30. A bunch

31. Guido's

32. Highest

33. Note

34. Unit of

35. Weight

36. Silent

37. Close to

38. Broad

39. Drinks

40. In

41. Small

42. Arguments

51. Town

52. Journey

53. Tear

54. Affirmative

55. Down

56. Olly

57. Not strict

58. Flower

59. Species of

60. Pepper plant

61. Outer dress

62. (Arab.)

63. Lolter

64. Sharp

65. Lessors

66. I raise

67. Crown

68. Greek

69. Letter

70. Garment

71. border

72. Solid per-

73. instantly

74. A fast gait

75. (colloq.)

76. Gun

77. (slang)

78. Born

79. Division

80. of a play

81. Device for

82. causing air

83. currents

84. Precious

85. stone

86. Seizes

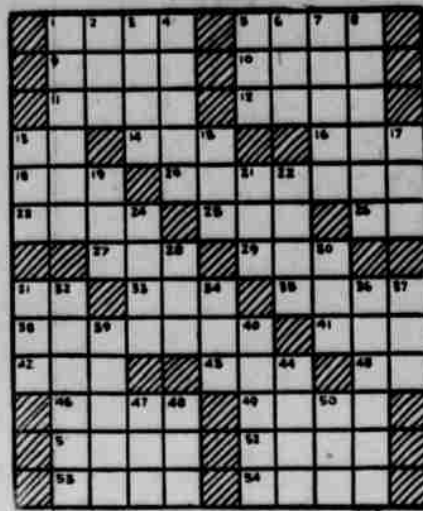
87. Measure

88. (Arab.)

89. Join

ANSWER ON

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